



*SENATOR*

*MICHELLE A. McMANUS*

*McManus Minutes*



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***“This office belongs to the citizens of the 35<sup>th</sup> district.”***

*State Senator Michelle A. McManus*

### **Apprentice hunting bill sent to governor**

Legislation to make it easier for first-time hunters to experience the sport is headed to the governor's desk. Under my bill, Senate Bill 1105, a person of legal hunting age would have the option of applying for an apprentice hunting license if he or she had not previously held a standard hunter's license. The apprentice license would exempt a person from completing a hunter's safety course so long as the individual was accompanied by a licensed adult 21 years of age or older.

A person could hunt with an apprentice hunting license for just two years. To continue hunting after that, he or she would need to apply for a standard license and pass a hunting safety course. Heading into the woods with a mentor is a great way for new hunters young and old to experience the sport for the first time. Adult-supervised hunters have a proven track record of safety, and allowing first-time hunters the option to enter the woods under the watchful eye of an adult mentor is a great way to introduce them to the sport.

A separate bill, House Bill 5192, sponsored by Rep. Scott Hummel, would lower the legal hunting age from 14 to 12 years of age for large game and 12 to 10 years of age for small game. HB 5192 is also before the governor. Similar legislation has been adopted in six states, including Minnesota, Ohio and Illinois.

### **Senate committee approves bill to help MYCF**

The Senate Judiciary Committee last week approved a bill allowing the Michigan Youth Correctional Facility to become a private facility capable of housing a wider range of correctional populations. House Bill 5800, introduced by Rep. Goeff Hansen, gives a private vendor the latitude to utilize the Michigan Youth Correctional Facility for any in-state or out-state correctional population, such as county inmates, homeland security detainees or out-state inmates. As the cornerstone of Lake County's economy, the prison must be repurposed so the community can again reap the benefits it once provided. This bill would free up the prison so it could be used for a variety of prisoners instead of restricting it to youths. The bill now goes before the full Senate for consideration.

### **Contact Me**

My door is always open. Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding state issues. You can reach my Lansing Office by phone at: 517-373-1725; toll free at 866-305-2135, or contact my Cadillac District Office at 231-775-8599. If you received this as a forwarded message and would like to receive future legislative updates via e-mail, you can sign up at my Web site: <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/mcmanus>.